

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2

Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

FEBRUARY 2013



The Capitol Clarion is published monthly by the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

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Bill Geach, Eternal Editor

Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1st of the month**. Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor at:
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Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter
PO Box 19956
Sacramento, CA 95819

President's Message

By Alex King

A new CSCMVA Year – a (partially) new Board of Directors, new dates and schedules for our regularly scheduled events, and new opportunities for CSCMVA members to be involved in all we do and all we can be to meet our mandate of promoting “...the educational and interpretive activities of the California State Capitol Museum.”

For those of you who were able to join us at the recent Annual Luncheon, you saw our outgoing president Gary Stonehouse relate, quite humorously, the amazingly busy year we’ve just completed. For those who could not join with us, any of the Board members would be happy to share a copy of Gary’s report with you.

Most importantly, when you see Gary, either as he welcomes visitors to the Governor’s Office or is present at any one of our special events, be sure to thank him for the yeoman’s effort he put forth leading us all through a very productive and successful 2012.

Diane Rich, our Vice President, and Patty Wood, our Recording Secretary, have also “termed out” from the Board. All three former officers, however, continue to serve the Association with their experience, expertise, wisdom and mentoring. Do thank them when you see them.

By the time you receive this issue of the **Clarion**, we will have already had our first annual event, the Citywide Downtown “Museum Day” on February 3rd, and our first Board Meeting of the new year. The “new” 2013 Board is enthusiastic about the coming year, and we value the input, advice and suggestions from all of our members. A goal we all share is to increase the opportunities for communication amongst the membership and to include and appreciate all the myriad talents you each bring to the Capitol.

On **Thursday, February 28**, we will again use beautiful Capitol Park camellias to celebrate **Camellia Day** and share corsages with Capitol visitors and Legislative Members and staff. Come join us around **9:00 AM** under the steps adjacent to the Rotunda. It is a fun event that challenges our dexterity and is usually finalized by late morning.

Dates for our other regularly-scheduled annual events are provided elsewhere in the Clarion. Record the dates, and you can begin to prepare for your involvement, such as roles to play on Earthquake Day, and costuming for the Women's Suffrage event.

Your new Board Is looking forward to the year, particularly with more of our members involved and actively participating in CSCMVA activities. Good communication, good inclusivity and good involvement will help us all have a fun and productive year!

~ **Alex**



2013 Board of Directors

Back Row Left to Right: David Keck, Bob Dreyer, Bob Dennis, Marita Martin, Alex King

Front Row: Marylin Thompson, Christine Tyler, Connie Clark.

Missing from the photo: Leslie Cooper

2013 Board of Directors

Alex King	President
David Keck	Vice President
Bob Dennis	Treasurer
Marilyn Thompson	Secretary
Connie Clark	Member
Leslie Cooper	Member
Bob Dreyer	Member
Marita Martin	Member
Christine Tyler	Member

CSCMVA Board Meeting Minutes:

February 6, 2013

By Marylin Thompson

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Bob Dennis** distributed an Operating Statement and a Profit and Loss Statement for January 2013. Bookstore receipts were slightly lower than anticipated but not alarmingly so. Annual meeting expenses were under budget. Overall, there was a positive cash flow of \$662.70 for the month.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Alex King** wants to see committees formed to help with the association's activities and to involve more members. He proposes committees for Rules, Appropriations and Program to start with. He is also working on compiling a roster of all the members who are quietly doing a job "in the background" and do not get adequate recognition. This structure will help in knowing if there are "back ups" for certain tasks and will provide a more complete picture of the resources it requires to run the association.

STATE PARKS REPORT: Casey Hayden was not present, due to another function at the Stanford Mansion.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Shelly Reimers has taken another position and is helping at the Capitol only on a part time basis for a limited period. There was, however, a discussion of how the association might function in the absence of a volunteer coordinator, in both the short and long term, and what jobs volunteers might assume in the absence of a State Parks employee. It is currently unclear what the Parks staffing plans are and what their requirements are for coordination with the volunteers.

Alex and Bob Dennis will meet with Casey to determine Shelly's official duties and to learn what is appropriate, and possible for the association to assume, and what staff resources Parks will continue to provide. Of particular concern is access to, and maintenance of, the Volgistics database which contains all relevant member information, especially as it allows for efficient communication with all members. There was further discussion regarding a farewell / thank you gift for Shelly. The logistics of holding a party are complicated due to her Saturday-only schedule for a brief time period. An appropriate gift was discussed, and Marti and Bob Dennis will procure it. Bob Dennis made a motion for approval of the gift expenditure, David Keck seconded it, and the motion passed. A card for Shelly, expressing member appreciation for her contribution to the organization, will be at the Volunteers' Desk within the week, and all volunteers are encouraged to sign it.

BOOKSTORE REPORT: **Mary Geach** reported income of \$1,924 for the month. The bad news is that the publisher of four of the best-selling books has gone out of business. Even though she had requested to buy his residual stock, he did not contact her in sufficient time to allow her purchase. These titles, as well as several others, are now out of print and unavailable. There was discussion about the potential for acquiring rights to these titles to see if there might be another publisher who would continue publication.

MEMBERSHIP: **Mary Geach** reported there are 80 paid members so far this year. Seven people in the new volunteer class did not reach the 72 hour annual minimum. Eleven reached the 72 hour threshold and four worked 100 hours. Since the training took place mid-year, instead of February, there was less time to accrue hours. Mary encouraged mentors to contact their "mentees" to encourage more participation.

CAMELLIA DAY: **Connie Clark and Alex King** (event co-chairs) reported that a sign-up sheet was passed at the morning training session for bow makers and corsage makers. A bow making workshop will be held at **Diane Rich's home on Friday February 15 at 10:00**. All are welcome to attend and are encouraged to bring their lunch. Mary Geach will assist with instructions.

(MID) SUMMER SOCIAL EVENT: The association would like to hold a social event to replace the Volunteer Appreciation dinner. Early June is the likely time for such an event. Location, costs and committee remain to be decided. Leslie Cooper will check on the availability of the Northridge Country Club, Alex and David will check on the feasibility of the Stanford Mansion, and Bob Dreyer will check on a local facility in a residential community. Marti Dennis volunteered to help coordinate the event.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Admissions Day is Monday, September 9th, and the Women's Suffrage event is scheduled for Sunday, October 13th.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: **Marcia Maleske** asked that all volunteers be reminded not to correct each other in front of the public in the event that incorrect information is being given out. She suggested that the either the volunteer wait until a quiet, non-public moment to discuss the issue, or TACTFULLY intervene only if the information is of a critical nature.

MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE: **Alex King** suggested that he is considering developing a questionnaire as a means to obtain member input and suggestions.

All members are encouraged to attend the monthly CSCMVA Board meetings normally held on the first Wednesday of the month. The meetings commence at 1:00 PM.

Sunshine Corner:

Since the last issue of the **Clarion**, cards were sent to the following individuals:

Ron Lauchner: Continued wishes for recovery

Christiane Culhane: Thinking of You

Karen Rea: Thinking of You

Susan Ches: Thinking of You

Nancy Murphy: Wishes for a speedy recovery



Marita Martin wishes to thank the Association and individual members for condolences following the loss of her husband, Art.



Scotty Hodges

If you know of someone who could use a word of encouragement, comfort, or get well wishes, please contact **Scotty Hodges** who thoughtfully expresses CSCMVA support on behalf of the group. Scotty can be contacted at hashhogg901@yahoo.com or by phone at 707- 425 -1909. And, just in case you haven't met Scotty, the photo to the left captures the image of the lovely lady behind the regular and sensitive efforts to reach out to our volunteers – and who also regularly contributes the Volunteer Spotlight!

Camellia Day: February 28

By Connie Clark and Alex King

Camellia Pin-On Day used to coincide with Sacramento's Camellia Festival. Even though the festival is no longer held, the CSCMVA has carried on the tradition at the Capitol. Using the many and beautiful blossoms from the Capitol's own garden, we annually prepare corsages & boutonnieres.



Our costumed volunteers, much to the delight of all, distribute them to visitors and Legislative staff. Because this is a sit-down and work event, it is a great time for old and new Docents to get to know each other.

To ensure a successful event, we need a number of volunteers:

Friday February 15:

- **6-7+ volunteers** to help make bows on **Friday, February 15**. Diane Rich is hosting this event which will run from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Diane's address is 824 Shoreside Drive, Sacramento. Bring a lunch.

Thursday, February 28:

- 12-20 volunteers to assemble the corsages the morning of the event.
- 3-4 volunteers to distribute corsages (costume preferred).

- 4-5 volunteers to bring morning treats (coffee and tea will be provided)
- 2-3 volunteers to help with cleanup.

On the 28th, please arrive by 8:30 and meet behind the west entrance stairway. We will have morning snacks, coffee and tea. Warning: dress in layers. The West Entrance is in the Arctic Zone. We typically run out of flowers, bows and energy around noon.

If you would like to participate and have not yet signed up, please contact one of the event Chairs Connie Clark cclark610@surewest.net (916) 486-4112 or Alex King ahking@att.net

A Museum Day “Thank You”

From Alex King

Sacramento celebrated the 15th Annual MUSEUM DAY on February 2. On previous Museum Days, we received visitors in the hundreds - this year over 3,100 people came to see our beautiful Capitol. Greeted by many of our members in historic attire, visitors all expressed interest, appreciation and even amazement at being in their State Capitol.

Thank you to all who made the day so successful, including: **Co-chairs Marilyn Thompson and Bob Dreyer**, assisted by Bill White, Diane Rich, Ray Graetz, Anne Just, Karen Rea, Joy Lehmann, Jan Geiger, Julie Mallett, Sam Bhakta, Mary Spitzer, Alex King, PJ Jones, Clem Dougherty, Connie Clark, Jan Forbes, Carolyn Martin, Mary Spitzer, Rosemary Kirrene, Chris Tyler, Ann Fox-Morgan, Randall Williams, Joanne Hoffman, Barbara Smith, Lou Below, Rosemary Neves, Marcia Maleske, Barbara Kokonas, Carolyn Fuqua-Scott, Bob Chan, Dick Getz, Elizabeth Giordano and Marti and Bob Dennis.

If I inadvertently missed anyone, please let me know so we can correct the oversight. Thanks to everyone who made this event so memorable for so many new, and returning, visitors!

Reflections on the Annual Meeting and Luncheon:

Thanks are also very much in order to **Diane Rich** who so capably arranged our Annual Luncheon and Meeting at the Casa Grande restaurant in Sacramento in late January. Without Shelly's gift with graphics, we are unable to provide a collage of the event, but the following pictures should help jog some pleasant memories.



Karen Rea, Marilyn Thompson,
Marita Martin, David Keck



Ann Rost, Judi Smith, Patty Wood



Diane Rich and
Gary Stonehouse

The highlights of the day included the election of three new Board members: **Connie Clark, Bob Dreyer, and Christine Tyler**, as well as the President's report prepared and delivered so well by **Gary Stonehouse**. Using his dry sense of humor, Gary tried to impress us with (make believe) photos on his camera of events such as the (fictional) closing down of the Women's Suffrage event. He had us laughing, along with reminiscing, about the year's successful programs and events. Diane Rich provided a gift to Gary recognizing his leadership of the association in 2012. The new (2013) board met immediately following the luncheon and elected new officers: **Alex King, President; David Keck, Vice President; Bob Dennis, Treasurer; and Marilyn Thompson, Secretary**.

Then it was time to recognize the annual contributions of our volunteers. Hour awards were presented to those members who reached sentinel milestones in their volunteer efforts. The individuals recognized are listed below:

Volunteer Hour Awards recognizing significant levels of achievement:

100 Hours:

Sanmukah Bhakta
Barbara Kokonas

Julie Mallett
Mary Spitzer

300 Hours:

Marianne Bruening
Jan Forbes
Jack Karolewski
Mary Jane Nelson

Karen Rea
Marilyn Thompson
Chris Tyler

500 Hours:

Sheila Bruton
Dale Claypool
Bob Dennis
Sharyn Holland
Alex King
Allen Leavitt

Rodney Lukins
Verna Magennis
Marita Martin
Barb Souza
William Stricker

750 Hours:

Richard Sabbagh
Gary Stonehouse

Pam Werner

1000 Hours:

Christiane Culhane
Robert Dreyer

David Keck
Phil Noble

2000 Hours:

Diane Rich

4000 Hours:

Ellen Holt



Volunteer Training:

On Wednesday February 6 approximately fifty interested volunteers attended a training session, arranged by **Alex King** and aided by **Kathy Fotopoulos**, which focused on the California state

legislative process, the history and artifacts of the Senate and Assembly chambers, and significant events and personalities that are associated with both legislative units. It was a very interesting experience and was heightened by the presentation made by **Tony Beard**, Sergeant-at-Arms of the CA State Senate.



Tony Beard addressing CSCMVA volunteers on February 6

1906 Earthquake Day – Sunday, April 21

Volunteers are currently being recruited by **Ann Rost and Marilyn Thompson**, co-chairs for the 1906 Earthquake Day Living History event on **Sunday, April 21**. Watch your mailbox (electronic or otherwise) for information about interesting and fun opportunities for participation.

Volunteer Spotlight

By Asleain Scotty Hodges

This volunteer grew up in Sacramento which makes her another native-born Californian. She attended the **University of California at Davis** where she graduated with a **major in History** and a minor in Political Science. She taught elementary school in Sacramento as well as Vacaville; however for the 18 years immediately prior to her retirement, she taught in the city of Davis. Although she now lives in Davis, she will soon be moving to El Dorado Hills to be close to her daughter and granddaughter. In fact, by the time this article is published, she may have already moved her residence.



Mary Anne Armstrong

This month's featured volunteer, **Mary Anne Armstrong**, learned about the docent program from fellow docent and longtime friend Marianne Breuning who, coincidentally, was also her college

roommate. It really is a small world, and how nice that the two are able to continue their close friendship at the Capitol. And note the similarity of names between two good colleagues!

Mary Anne admits that she loves history as well as politics. She is certainly in the right place to enjoy, learn and ponder both subject matters. She informs me that her love of those interest areas helps her to do a better job of performing her docent duties. As well, she says that she learns something every time that she comes to work at the Capitol and loves meeting visitors from various parts of the United States, as well as from around the world. She also states that she just loves working with Marianne, Julie, Christiana, and Regina.

Mary Anne Armstrong

Since her retirement, Mary Anne has wanted to volunteer and contribute in a productive way. She has found that she loves coming to the Capitol and working with other volunteers and especially enjoys getting to know the Capitol interns. In fact, she considers it a great honor to work at the Capitol. During her time with the docent program, (Class of 2010) she has shared her time and talents in Living History Events such as the 1906 Earthquake Day, and she has earned nearly 200 hours of volunteer time.

In her spare time, Mary Anne plays a great deal of competitive tennis which means she is competitive, very athletic, loves exercise and the outdoors -- or all of the above. She also loves taking in the theater, reading good books, and travelling. It is interesting that most of her fellow CSCMVA volunteers have in common the love of travel!

When I asked what Mary Anne looks forward to in the future, her response was that it is participation in many more historic celebrations. We at CSCMVA also look forward to many more living history celebrations and to having Mary Anne lend her talents to guide and assist us in ensuring those celebrations are outstanding successes.

Special Feature: Did You Know...?

By Clem Dougherty

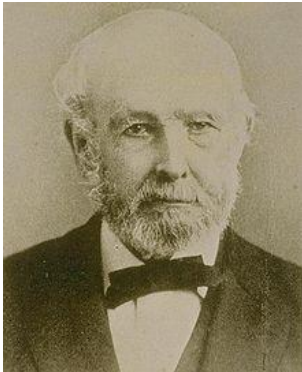
...that California's first Governor, Peter Burnett, was elected and functioned as governor approximately 10 months before California was admitted to the Union? Yes, it is true.

You may recall that the Gold Rush began on January 24, 1848 with the discovery of gold at Coloma on the American River; that the last military governor Brigadier General Bennett Riley called for an election to be held on August 1, 1849 for the election of delegates to a convention to be held on September 1, 1849; that 48 delegates so elected met at Monterey during September and October, 1849 and drafted a state constitution. You may also recall that on November 13, 1849 California voters approved the state constitution and elected the first legislature and the first governor Peter Burnett, and that Brigadier General Riley, the last military governor, subsequently transferred power to Mr. Burnett, (the new civil governor) on December 20, 1849. Thus Peter Burnett was elected and functioned as governor approximately 10 months before California was admitted to the Union on September 9, 1850.

By way of biographical background, Peter Burnett was born in Tennessee on November 15, 1807. He was married and had three children. Burnett had a variety of occupations including one as a lawyer. None of his careers provided him with financial security, and unpaid debts plagued him for much of his adult life. Some historians have commented that in jumping from occupation to occupation, Peter Burnett demonstrated a character flaw by simply quitting when faced with difficulty. However that may be, in an attempt to start anew, Burnett traveled to Oregon in 1843 and soon became involved in Oregon politics. Oregon was in the process of forming a territorial government. Burnett was elected

to the nine-member 1844 Legislative Committee of Oregon which created a new territorial government consisting of an executive, a legislature, and a judiciary. The Oregon experience proved valuable to Burnett in that he learned firsthand the problems of starting a new government and made many contacts with Oregonians who would later move to California during the Gold Rush. Some historians credit Burnett's victory as governor in California to those former Oregonians who held the balance of power in the successful election of Burnett.

Upon gold being discovered in California, Burnett left Oregon to strike it rich in California where he arrived on the Yuba River on November 5, 1848. He actually spent one month panning for gold when in December 1848. Burnett met John Sutter, Jr. who hired Burnett as agent and attorney for selling Sutter lots in Sacramento. Once again, Burnett became involved with politics in both Sacramento and San Francisco where he joined local organizations pressing for the creation of a government for California. Thus, by the time the election for governor was held in California one year later on November 13, 1849, Burnett was known in California as a person well versed in the organization of government.



Gov. Peter Burnett

However, governing Gold Rush California was not easy matter. In prior "Did You Know" articles appearing in the **Clarion**, we saw how lawlessness during the 1850s gripped the new state, that law enforcement officials and the courts were unable to control crime, that vigilance committees arose throughout the state, that the Squatter's Riot of 1850 brought bloodshed to Sacramento, that the Napa Valley Massacre of 1850 brought further bloodshed to other parts of Northern California, and that there was no money to pay law enforcement officers and to build jails. Over all these problems, further uncertainty gripped the new state in the question of the legitimacy of a functioning state government not yet admitted to the Union. Also the fact that the state capital was moved six times between 1849 and 1854 before it finally settled in Sacramento undermined any confidence in the stability of the new state.

To address the problem of lawlessness, Burnett recognized the problems faced by courts in the administration of justice, and he recommended solutions for speeding up the prosecution of crimes. Indeed the Legislature in 1851 adopted several proposals to correct defects in the administration of justice that had been created by the prior state Legislature of 1849-1850. These corrections came too late, because the state's citizens had already turned to vigilantism to address the increasing crime. Burnett also advocated the death penalty for grand larceny and robbery until jails could be built – a proposal the Legislature rejected. Burnett did act decisively when he called out the state militia to quell two Indian uprisings (one in El Dorado County and the other along the Colorado River) and to quell the Squatter's Riot in Sacramento (the militia arrived in Sacramento after the violence stopped).

Burnett proposed that the basic law for California be an ideal constitutional and statutory law based upon an extensive study of those laws of other states and adopting the best provisions of those other codes. The Legislature rejected Burnett's proposal and instead adopted as the basic law for California the English common law except where modified by the U.S. Constitution, the State Constitution, and statutory law. The approach taken by the Legislature in 1849-1850 remains the basic approach to California law today.

Lawlessness was not the only problem Burnett faced. The lack of money to fund government was just as daunting. The usual way of financing government in early California was by issuing bonds, by imposing a poll tax on all male citizens of the state, by imposing a foreign miners' tax aimed at individual ethnic groups such as the Mexicans and the Chinese, and by imposing taxes on real property and personal property. Income taxes did not arrive in California until the state imposed an income tax on corporations in 1910 (Hiram Johnson, governor) and an income tax on individuals in 1937 (Frank Merriam, Governor). During the 1850s-1860s the real property and personal property tax

was to be divided among the state, counties, cities, and school districts. Accordingly the Legislature imposed for state purposes a 30 cent tax on every \$100 of real and personal property. But getting the tax money from real and personal property was easier said than done. The state depended upon county officials such as the Assessor and Treasurer of each county to appraise the real and personal property of each county and to collect the state taxes. All of this took time, and explains why there was so little money available for governmental purposes during Burnett's administration. In fact, Burnett himself was being paid with scrip – an IOU which has raised its ugly head again in recent California politics.

Burnett was elected for a two year term from December 20, 1849 to December 20, 1851. On January 7, 1851 Burnett sent a message to the Legislature which was coldly received by that body. Interpreting the Legislative response as a slap in the face, Burnett abruptly resigned as governor. Again, while admitting that the reasons for Burnett's resignation are not exactly clear, some historians describe the resignation as further evidence of that earlier character flaw attributed to Burnett of quitting when faced with opposition. A much more fair explanation may be that when crime was increasing in the new-found state; when the regular courts were being ignored and vigilance committees were rising in their place all over the state; when there was no money to pay law enforcement officials and to build jails; when state control over the tumultuous situation just described appeared tenuous at best; when his own personal debts were becoming more pressing; and when he was being paid with scrip only, the snub by the Legislature may have been the straw that broke the proverbial camel's back. In any event, Burnett never completed his term.

Once Burnett left government, matters took an upswing for him personally. Governor J. Neely Johnson appointed Burnett to the California Supreme Court where he served from 1857 to 1858. In 1863 Burnett became the president of the Pacific Bank of San Francisco -- the city where he lived until his death on May 17, 1895, at the age of 88.

Peter Burnett's tenure as governor may be looked upon in two ways. On the negative side, Burnett's abrupt resignation as governor may be interpreted as representative of the uncertainty and instability of the Gold Rush era. On the positive side, Burnett's involvement in the organization of government in both Oregon and California demonstrated a broader American characteristic of ordinary citizens coming together to form governments for the well-running of society here in the United States – a characteristic found in the Mayflower Compact; the United States Constitution itself; state constitutions including California's constitution; the agreements made by pioneers to govern wagon trains crossing the American plains; and the mining district agreements made by miners to govern mining claims during the California Gold Rush. However we look at Peter Burnett, we can agree that he helped to launch the new state on its way to becoming the mega-state of the 21st Century.

Sources: The Governors of California, author unknown, found in the Volunteer Library Room B-27, CA State Capitol; Rawls and Bean, California, An Interpretive History, 9th edition; Rice, Bullough, and Orsi, The Elusive Eden, a New History of California, 3rd Edition; J.A. Grenier: Golden Odyssey-John Stroud Houston-California's First Controller and The Origins of State Government; and Governors Who Made a Difference, Their lives, Their Challenges, Their Places in History by Clement Dougherty found in the Volunteer Library, Rm. B-27, State Capitol.

Author's Note: The foregoing article on Peter Burnett is the last article in a series entitled "California: The Formation of the New State." In a subsequent issue of the **Clarion**, we will start a new series, "California: The Spanish/Mexican/Mission Period.")

*(Editor's Note: The Special Features column is dedicated to interesting articles about California, our CA State Capitol or visits to other state capitols. CSCMVA members are encouraged to share experiences and/or researched information in this column. For inclusion in the **Clarion**, please send articles to Marti Dennis at mdennis1@att.net.)*

Upcoming Events:*

Camellia Day Events:

Bow-making for Corsages: Friday, February 15
Camellia Pin-On Day: Thursday, February 28

1906 Earthquake Living History: Sunday, April 21

California Admission Day: Monday, September 9

Women's Suffrage Living History: Sunday, October 13

Capitol Holiday Music: Daily, December 1 through 23

Annual Meeting & Luncheon: TBD, January 2014

Special thanks to a request from volunteer **Carolyn Martin for a full list of scheduled events for the year. Volunteer feedback is invited and appreciated!*

Watch for the next issue of the *Clarion* on / about March 20, 2013.

Volunteer Program website:

<http://capitolmuseum.tem.parks.ca.gov/volunteerprogram>

Capitol Museum website: <http://www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov/>

Volunteer Coordinator: 324-2405
324-0333

Tour Guide Office:

Scheduler's Desk: 324-2088

Capitol Tours daily 9 am – 4 pm, closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day